LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A hydrodynamic coupling for a turbine system of an internal combustion engine, the turbine system having an exhaust gas turbine, the internal combustion engine having a crank shaft and an exhaust gas flow path, the coupling comprising:

a primary impeller;

a secondary impeller;

a working chamber defined at least in part by the primary and secondary impellers, the working chamber being filled with a working medium; and

a switching member for reversing a direction of rotation of the primary impeller or the secondary impeller,

wherein the switching member has a first switching state and a second switching state,

wherein the primary impeller and the secondary impeller ~~can~~ rotate in opposite directions with respect to each other in the first switching state, and wherein the primary impeller and the secondary impeller rotate in a same direction with respect to each other in the second switching state.

12. (previously presented) The coupling according to claim 11, wherein the switching member comprises a flow conducting device in the exhaust gas flow path that reverses the direction of rotation of the primary impeller by changing the direction of

flow of the exhaust gas flow path.

13. (previously presented) The coupling according to claim 12, wherein the flow conducting device comprises a conducting apparatus of the exhaust gas turbine.

14. (previously presented) The coupling according to claim 11, wherein the switching member comprises a switching gear.

15. (previously presented) The coupling according to claim 14, wherein the switching gear is a reversing gear positioned between the crankshaft and the secondary impeller.

16. (previously presented) The coupling according to claim 14, wherein the switching gear is a reversing gear positioned between the exhaust gas turbine and the primary impeller.

17. (previously presented) The coupling according to claim 14, wherein the switching gear is disposed parallel to the hydrodynamic coupling and comprises a shift coupling for switching the primary impeller and the secondary impeller to a mechanical driven connection with opposite directions of rotation.

18. (previously presented) The coupling according to claim 17, wherein the shift coupling is a multi-disk coupling.

19. (previously presented) The coupling according to claim 17, wherein the shift coupling is a hydrodynamic coupling.

20. (previously presented) The coupling according to claims 17,

wherein the switching gear is a planetary gear with a shift coupling.

21. (currently amended) A turbine system for an internal combustion engine having a crank shaft and an exhaust gas flow path, the system comprising:

an exhaust gas turbine in communication with the exhaust-gas flow of the internal combustion engine;

a hydrodynamic coupling having a primary impeller and a secondary impeller defining at least in part a working chamber filled with a working medium, the hydrodynamic coupling being operably connected between the crankshaft and the exhaust gas turbine, wherein driving power is transmitted from the exhaust gas turbine to the crankshaft when the working chamber is filled with the working medium; and

a switching member for reversing a direction of rotation of the primary impeller or the secondary impeller, wherein the switching member has a first switching state and a second switching state,

wherein the primary impeller and the secondary impeller ~~can~~ rotate in opposite directions with respect to each other in the first switching state, and wherein the primary impeller and the secondary impeller rotate in a same direction with respect to each other in the second switching state.

22. (previously presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein the switching member comprises a flow conducting device in the exhaust gas flow that reverses the direction of rotation of the primary impeller by changing the direction of flow of the exhaust gas flow.

23. (previously presented) The system according to claim 22, wherein the flow conducting device comprises a conducting apparatus of the exhaust gas turbine.

24. (previously presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein the switching member comprises a switching gear.

25. (previously presented) The system according to claim 24, wherein the switching gear is a reversing gear positioned between the crankshaft and the secondary impeller.

26. (previously presented) The system according to claim 24, wherein the switching gear is a reversing gear positioned between the exhaust gas turbine and the primary impeller.

27. (previously presented) The system according to claim 24, wherein the switching gear is disposed parallel to the hydrodynamic coupling and comprises a shift coupling for switching the primary impeller and the secondary impeller to a mechanical driven connection with opposite directions of rotation.

28. (previously presented) The system according to claim 27, wherein the shift coupling is a multi-disk coupling.

29. (previously presented) The system according to claim 27, wherein the switching gear is a planetary gear with a shift coupling.

30. (currently amended) A method of forming a counter-rotating hydrodynamic retarder comprising:

forming a working chamber of a hydrodynamic coupling by providing a primary impeller and a secondary impeller;

filling the working chamber with a working medium;

transmitting driving power from an exhaust gas turbine to a crankshaft of an internal combustion engine when the working chamber is filled with the working medium; and

reversing a direction of rotation of the primary impeller or the secondary impeller by changing a direction of flow of an exhaust gas flow path of the internal combustion engine, wherein the primary impeller and the secondary impeller rotate in opposite directions with respect to each other in a first switching state, and wherein the primary impeller and the secondary impeller rotate in a same direction with respect to each other in a second switching state.